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MARYLAND



FACTS ABOUT THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE



BY
CHARLES H. STANLEY





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IN view of the fact that the Maryland Agricultural College, like all other State institutions, is asking appropriations from the Legislature, and in view of the further fact that I believe the situation of the Maryland Agricultural College in regard to the State is not as well understood as it might be, as a trustee of the college for nearly 30 years and familiar with the finances, the business management and the property of the college, I think it will not be out of place for me to state in public print some facts which I do not believe are generally known either by the Legislature or by the people of the State.

In the first place, an examination of the records of the Maryland Agricultural College will show that the college was incorporated in 1856, and that the original stockholders, comprising many—I might say all—the leading citizens of this State, purchased the property, built the buildings and established one of the first, if not the first, agricultural college ever established in this country. The amount of money put up by the stockholders at that time in cash was \$47,350. They paid \$21,400 for the land, put up the college buildings at a cost of \$46,902.03; dwellings for professors, \$7,351.71, and for furniture and appliances, \$6,571.43. The barn cost \$622.73, and implements, stock on farm, etc., \$5,334.02, making a total of \$88,381.93. A debt of a difference between the sum of \$47,350 and the total amount was incurred by the trustees, but was afterward paid. After the war, in 1866, the Legislature of Maryland agreed to appropriate, and did appropriate, the

sum of \$45,000 (which was about one-half of the cost of the property) upon condition that the college would give to the State of Maryland a deed of one-half undivided interest in all the property of the college, which deed was executed by the college, and duly recorded, and today the State of Maryland is a one-half owner in all the property of the Maryland Agricultural College.

In 1890 the president of the college and the board of trustees, among whom were Governor Brown, Spencer C. Jones, Marion De K. Smith, Charles H. Evans and the undersigned, built the first new building on that property by borrowing the money on their individual note from a bank which charged a small rate of interest, and in this way the gymnasium and library were built, at a cost of \$5,000. This note was afterward paid in realty by the savings from the domestic fund, which belonged to the trustees of the college. The next building was the chemical building, in 1894, at a cost of \$5,000, which was paid for out of what they saved from the State appropriation.

The next building was the science hall. The State appropriated \$15,000 for the building and necessary appliances. In 1902 the Legislature agreed to appropriate \$30,000 to build the administration building, upon condition that the stockholders would secure the State by giving a mortgage on the stockholders' interest for \$15,000, which mortgage was given and accepted by the Attorney-General. Since that time has been built the mechanical and engineering buildings, which were paid for by appropriations from the State.

From the above will be seen the exact situation—that the stockholders first put up \$88,281.93; that the State of Maryland purchased a one-half interest in the property, and the State has paid for such buildings as I have above designated as paid for by the State. The situation of the property is just this: The State is, first, one-half owner in all the property of every kind and description, and,

second, holds a mortgage against the stockholders for \$15,000, in addition thereto. The college receives from the United States Government \$50,000 under the two Morrill acts. Twenty per cent. of that we have to pay to a colored agricultural college under the act of Congress, which practically leaves us \$40,000. This appropriation can be applied only to salaries of professors, for instruction and facilities for instruction, and the tuition at the Agricultural College does not cost the State one cent. Besides that, we got from the United States Government under the Land Script act \$5,797.17, which must be applied in the same manner, and reports have to be made showing that all this money is applied as directed or any balance to be paid to the United States, and, besides that, every year the Federal Government sends an auditor to audit the accounts, examine the vouchers and make his report to the Government; and I might say in this connection that for many years our books have been audited by the State Auditor as well as by the United States auditor, and every voucher looked into and examined. The money which the college has been receiving from the State in the last two years, which is much larger than ever before, is the sum of \$16,000, which has been applied for maintenance, items of which will be very gladly furnished if anybody wishes to see them, and can be very easily seen in the Comptroller's office. All other money appropriated by the State has been for farmers' institutes (\$6,000), every cent of which has been applied to the salary of a director, head assistants and the expenses of the institutes. The college does not get one cent of that money, but the treasurer of the college and the trustees administer the fund without any expense whatever from that fund.

The State appropriates \$8,000 for the horticultural department, which is administered exactly as the farmers' institute, and the money is paid to the treasurer of the Maryland Agricultural College, and under the board's

supervision it is administered without any cost, but only to see that the funds are properly and honestly applied; and, in fact, the distribution and management of these funds cost the college at the lowest calculation 10 per cent. of the amount appropriated, without receiving any compensation whatever for it.

As to the fertilizer matter, the State requires all sellers of fertilizer to take out license and to pay certain fees. The whole amount received from the fertilizer fees is applied to pay the salary of a chemist for that work, his assistants and the necessary expenses, which accounts are also kept by the college treasurer, and are also carefully audited by the State Auditor. This fund, of course, does not cost the taxpayers of Maryland one cent. The fertilizer people pay it, and the work is done to protect the farmers and the people of the State in what they buy. In other words, the man selling the fertilizer pays expenses out of it, the college trustees administer without cost to the State, and the farmer gets a benefit out of it by knowing what he is buying.

I hope I may be excused for making this explanation, but in fact I have so often been told that the Maryland Agricultural College was getting so much money from the State, when I knew it was a mistake, and from my long experience with the college, not only as a trustee, but as a large landowner, I know of the benefit and advantage the college has been to the farmers who, I think, have a right to be considered, taken care of and protected, that I really believe it my duty to make this plain statement that the people may understand.

Another thing I should say, that from the day the original stockholders put up the money, bought the land and built the building, up to the present day, they have never received one single cent of dividend, nor will they ever by any possibility receive one dollar as long as the college is running, and, of course, they never expected it. The thing the stockholders now want to do is to have

the college accomplish the purpose of its originators, to establish it "for the purpose of encouraging and aiding the philanthropic citizens in their efforts to disseminate useful knowledge, by establishing an agricultural college and model farm, which shall, in addition to the usual course of scholastic training, particularly indoctrinate the youths of Maryland, theoretically and practically, in those arts and sciences which, with good manners and morals, shall enable them to subdue the earth and elevate the State to the lofty position its advantages in soil, climate, etc., and the moral and mental capacities of its citizens entitle it to obtain."

As to the experiment station, which is a part of the Agricultural College, the State appropriates \$14,000. This money is applied, just like the farmers' institute fund and the other funds above mentioned, to the purposes for which the Legislature appropriates them, and the only action the trustees of the college have in the matter is assuming the responsibility to see that the funds are properly applied to the purposes for which they are given, and I might say in this connection, instead of it being a profit to the trustees of the college, it imposes a good deal of work and expense, and this fund, like other funds, is solely and entirely applied to what is believed to be the interest of the horticultural and agricultural interests of Maryland, without any profit to the college as a college.

The trustees, realizing the situation and being willing to do anything which will satisfy the idea that the State should own all of the property before making any further appropriations (though this idea does not seem to affect other institutions), have called a meeting of the stockholders to ratify a proposition which has been made, and I am sure will be willing to surrender all money, interest and value, provided only that they can be represented to such an extent as will enable them, by their representatives serving without pay, to endeavor to keep the insti-

tution in the lines of its incorporation, to maintain a careful, conservative administration, being in the future, as in the past, the conservative element of the board.

It is also a fact that in order to pay a part of the indebtedness incurred by the trustees in the erection of buildings, etc., about 100 acres of the original tract of 408 acres were sold for the sum, it appears, of \$9,355 prior to 1866, and it is also a fact that the appropriation of the United States Government under the Hatch act and the Adams act goes exclusively to the experiment station, and that under the Hatch act a part could be, and has been, applied to buildings at the experiment station, and by a resolution adopted by the trustees July 4, 1892, the experiment station was placed under separate executive officers, and is now, and the college receives no part of the money appropriated by these acts, and all the buildings at the experiment station are on the same tract as the college.

CHARLES H. STANLEY.



March 16, 1912.

To the Editor of the Baltimore Sun.

Sir:

I FEEL impelled from the suggestion of others to state more plainly than I did the facts as to tuition and scholarships at the Maryland Agricultural College, and I ask a brief space in your paper.

In the first place it is a fact, and in justice to the College and to the United States Government that it should be known, that THERE IS no charge for tuition against any student at the Agricultural College. Even a full pay student does not pay one cent for tuition in any branch taught, nor laboratory fees, including Agriculture, Mechanical, Civil and Electrical Engineering, or any other branch of technology.

In the second place that there be no misunderstanding. A full pay student pays \$240; which pays for board, heat, room, laundry, light, and books—no laboratory fees or hospital fees or medical attendance are charged for.

A good deal has been said about free scholarships and half scholarships. It is a fact that not one dollar has ever been appropriated by the State for a free scholarship; nor has the State ever paid for a scholarship.

The scholarships are of two kinds—one a scholarship of one-half, or \$120 to each County and each Legislative District of Baltimore City, given by the trustees of the College and the costs are paid out of what we can save in running the business end of the College. Second, industrial scholarships, twenty-seven in number, who are paid \$140.00 a year for services they render and who receive the same education and advantages as other students—by paying \$100.00. Some of these industrial students have carried off the highest honors in the graduating classes, while serving during the four years as waiters in the dining room—and but for an establishment of industrial students not one of them would have ever been able to attend any college.

Let it be distinctly understood that every dollar heretofore appropriated to the College by the State has been applied to



what is strictly speaking maintenance; for buildings absolutely necessary, protection of insurance, light, heat and necessary repairs, and that all salaries of professors and tutors, all books and appliances for education, including laboratories, etc., are paid for out of the appropriations by the U. S. Government.

Today there are enrolled for this session in long and short courses three hundred and eleven students; of this number one hundred and ninety are taking Agricultural Courses, and one hundred and eleven are taking Electrical, Mechanical and Civil Engineering Courses.

In view of the fact that the Legislature has always hesitated in making appropriations for this College which was founded by the liberality of the farmers and planters of the State before the Civil War, at a cost of \$88,000, and whose property rights up to the present day have been represented by stock holdings. When it is understood that the stockholders have agreed to donate to the State all real estate and buildings for which the State has made appropriations, this College will hereafter be the property of the State, and will be the only educational institution belonging to and maintained by the State. It is the only institution in the State providing courses in Agriculture and kindred branches, with no tuition fees charged, the same being the purpose for which it was founded.

Respectfully,

CHARLES H. STANLEY,
Chairman of the Executive Committee
of the Board of Trustees.



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